

# IMPURETIES IN BEER.

## Some Facts About the Character of the Malt Liquor Drunk Daily.

### DANGER OF LEAD POISONING.

Deadly Drugs Occasionally Used to Adulterate Beer.

### HONEST BREWERS IN THE MAJORITY.

WHITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.

The art of brewing was known to the Egyptians many hundreds years before the Christian era, and, later, beer was the ordinary beverage of Julius Caesar's soldiers. When the Romans invaded Britain they took with them the art of brewing, and when beer entered England it went to stay; for ever since the invasion of the festive Roman the English people have been in the habit of having beer inseparably attached to brewed malt liquor. Some want it as stout, others as ale, and still others as porter; but the difference is little—there are all beer. In every country into which beer has been introduced, it has become the national beverage, until now it is the favorite drink in all northern and temperate parts of Europe and Asia. Even in Paris, where wine and absinthe are supposed to hold full sway, beer is consumed to an enormous extent.

Coming home, Allegheny county consumed, approximately, 15,000,000 gallons of beer during the year ending June 30, 1889. These figures represent about 30 gallons for each man, woman and child in the county.

### A FREQUENT QUESTION.

Now, considering this enormous and universal use of beer and in view of the fact that, locally, an enormously greater than usual amount of this beverage has been consumed recently, the quality of the beer manufactured in this county is of importance. Some investigations into its purity, then, may be interesting and timely. An analysis for impurities of 15 samples of beer, brewed and bottled in the Pittsburgh, consumer by brewers, within and without the county, gives the following results:

Lead present in three samples.  
Arsenic present in two samples.  
Cocculus indicus (picrotoxin) present in five samples.  
Strychnine present in two samples.  
Strychnine present in no samples.  
Opium present in no samples.  
Rhubarb (living) present in no samples.

Of the three brands of beer containing lead, one was bottled and two of tapped beer. How the metal came to be present in the bottled article can only be conjectured, but it is not probable that it came from the tap. The presence of lead in the tapped beer was owing to the fact that the beer was conveyed from the cask to the bottle by a lead pipe of about 25 feet in length in the one instance, and 35 feet in the other. The free acids, acetic, lactic and carbonic, in the beer, dissolved the metallic lead into soluble salts which were dissolved and carried along by the beer flowing through the pipes.

### THE DANGER OF LEAD PIPES.

Dr. Hay, the well-known chemist, some years ago pointed out the danger of using lead pipes for this purpose, and recommended that a pipe of iron, lined with an enamel free from lead, be used instead. It may be mentioned that the samples of tapped beer which contained lead were obtained from a place where more than 93 saloons in the city—a time when beer had more opportunity to stand in the pipes than has now. It is true that the quantity in one case would be small, but, as is well known to medical science, lead, like all metals, tends to accumulate in the system, and, no matter how small the dose, it will eventually produce chronic lead poisoning. Physicians are constantly meeting with cases of this kind, and it is a very difficult matter to ascertain the source of the lead. Until pipes made of material other than lead are used, the danger of tap pipe poisoning is a constant one. It is a very real danger, and the public are invited to call and inspect his stock and prices. Don't forget the place, 533 Smithfield st.

### CHEVALIER Q. JACKSON, M. D.

M. G. COHEN, the popular jeweler and diamond expert, formerly at the corner of Fifth avenue and Market street, has opened a new store at 533 Smithfield st. His old store was at the corner of Fifth and Market street, and he has moved to the new place, 533 Smithfield st. He has a large stock of diamonds, jewelry, and watches, and he is a very expert jeweler. He is a very real danger, and the public are invited to call and inspect his stock and prices. Don't forget the place, 533 Smithfield st.

### Excursion to Atlantic City.

Via the B. & O. R. R., next Thursday, August 15. Rate \$10 for the round trip; tickets good for 10 days; good to stop at Washington, D. C., and Baltimore, Md. Eastlake coaches and Pullman palace cars will leave at 8 A. M. and 9:20 P. M.

### THE BEST FRENCH STATIONS NOW ONLY 25c a yard, and a choice assortment of all-wool French challis reduced to 35c a yard.

HUGUS & HACKE.

We carry the best line of goods corrects.

F. SCHMIDT, 612 Penn. ave.

### CABINET photos, 8c per doz. Lies' Popular Gallery, 10 and 12 Sixth st. MWFSU

### LEAD WAS FOUND.

In both cases, no lead was detected in the beer. As soon as the matter was brought to the notice of the proprietors of the respective saloons, they immediately made arrangements to have the barrels placed in the barroom, and the beer was served directly with a spigot, without the intervention of compressed air and lead pipe, or pipe of any kind; and, though the proprietors could not be sure of the accuracy of the results, the symptoms of lead poisoning all subsided.

### How the arsenic found in two samples got into the beer, is a matter very difficult to explain. In order to increase the profits, the unscrupulous brewers of these beers had added artificial glucose in the manufacture. This substance would be very pure and justifiable, perhaps, were it not for the fact that in the artificial conversion of starch into glucose, sulphuric acid is used. Now common sulphuric acid almost invariably contains arsenic. Whence the

### ARSENIC IN THE BEER.

True, this poisonous metal was not found in very great quantity, and probably would be of no harm to the system, but it is a very real danger, and the public are invited to call and inspect his stock and prices. Don't forget the place, 533 Smithfield st.

### PEACH SHORT CAKE.

Take one pound of flour; mix well through it one and a half measure of "Banner" Baking Powder, place in a bowl, add salt; then rub in one-half pound of shortening, add with a spoon one-half pint of sweet milk; bake in jelly cake pans; when cold, cut into squares, and serve with cream. Take ripe, fresh peaches, which have previously been washed, pared, chopped, and sugared. Spread the fruit on each layer and serve with cream.

### CHARLOTTE RUSSE.

Take one quart of rich cream, four tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar, two teaspoonfuls of vanilla; place this in a vessel packed with chopped ice; allow it to thoroughly freeze. Then add two tablespoonfuls of gelatin that has been dissolved in two tablespoonfuls of sweet milk. Prepare your cake as follows: Take the whites of 11 eggs and beat them until they are stiff; add the cream, sugar, and vanilla; then add the gelatin mixture; mix well; and bake in a loaf shape. This is a very real danger, and the public are invited to call and inspect his stock and prices. Don't forget the place, 533 Smithfield st.

### AN UNNECESSARY EVIL.

Sulphuric acid is not a dangerous adulterant, but it has no business in the beer. If enough hops are used there is no necessity for it. Strychnine and picrotoxin were not found in the samples analyzed, though they are sometimes used to increase the bitterness and profit.

Tobacco and opium have been used to adulterate beer, but probably not very frequently.

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